



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

400 MARYLAND AVENUE, SW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20202-1475

REGION XI  
NORTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
VIRGINIA  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 26, 2012

Re: OCR Complaint 11-12-1457

This is to notify you that the U.S. Department of Education (Department), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), has carefully evaluated the above-referenced complaint you filed with OCR on May 9, 2012, against the District of Columbia Public Schools (District) alleging discrimination on the basis of sex. We conducted the evaluation in accordance with OCR's *Case Processing Manual* to determine whether to open the complaint for investigation. We have determined that we have the authority to investigate this complaint.

Specifically, the complaint and your supporting documentation allege that the District subjects high school girls to discrimination on the basis of sex because the selection of interscholastic sports at the District's high schools does not effectively accommodate the interests and abilities of members of both sexes to the extent necessary to provide equal athletic opportunity.

OCR is responsible for enforcing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. § 1681 (Title IX), and its implementing regulation, 34 C.F.R. Part 106. Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity operated by a recipient of Federal financial assistance. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department, the District is subject to Title IX. Additional information about the laws OCR enforces is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/ocr>.

Because OCR has determined that it has jurisdiction and that the complaint was filed timely, it is opening this complaint for investigation. Please note that opening the complaint for investigation in no way implies that OCR has made a determination with regard to its merits. During the investigation, OCR is a neutral fact-finder, collecting and analyzing relevant evidence from the complainant, the recipient, and other sources, as appropriate. OCR will ensure that its investigation is legally sufficient and is dispositive of the complaint allegation, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the *Case Processing Manual*, which is available on our website at <http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/ocrcpm.html>.

When appropriate, a complaint may be resolved before the conclusion of an investigation after the recipient expresses an interest to OCR to resolve the complaint. In such cases, a resolution agreement signed by the recipient and submitted to OCR must be aligned with the complaint allegation(s) and/or the information obtained during the investigation and it must be consistent with applicable regulations.

*The Department of Education's mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access.*

Information about this resolution option is provided in the enclosure to this letter.

We will communicate with you periodically regarding the status of this complaint. If you have any questions, please contact me at 202-453-5924 or at [Dale.Rhines@ed.gov](mailto:Dale.Rhines@ed.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale Rhines", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dale Rhines  
Program Manager  
Office for Civil Rights  
Washington, DC Office

Enclosure